

Idaho Big Game

2017 and 2018 Seasons & Rules

1st Edition, 2017

idfg.idaho.gov



Controlled Hunt Application Periods

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn & Fall Black Bear: May 1 - June 5

Spring Black Bear: January 15 - February 15

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn Seasons: August 2017 - February 2018 & August 2018 - February 2019

Black Bear, Mountain Lion Seasons: August 2017 - June 2018 & August 2018 - June 2019

Gray Wolf Seasons: July 2017 - June 2018 & July 2018 - June 2019

Including Controlled Hunts for Deer, Elk, Pronghorn and Black Bear



Who We Are

Idaho Fish and Game is a state executive agency. Our seven-member commission is appointed by the governor. The commission administers the state's wildlife policy and hires the director.

Fish and Game has about 558 full-time employees that include conservation officers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, conservation educators, engineers, information technology, public relations, customer service and administrative professionals.

Our headquarters is located in Boise with seven regional offices and one subregional office throughout the state. We work with hunters, anglers, landowners and wildlife enthusiasts statewide.

What We Do

We manage, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife-related activities.

Every year, we:

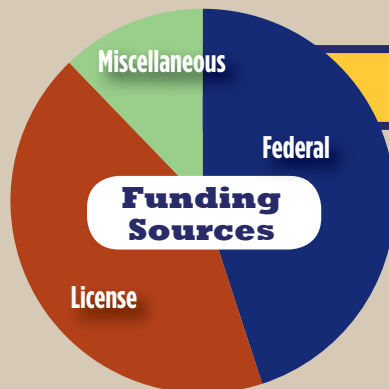
- Enforce fish and game laws in urban, rural and backcountry environments.
- Provide harvest opportunity for more than 70 wildlife species.
- Provide diverse angling opportunities for about 40 species of game fish.
- Operate 10 fish hatcheries that produce trout for stocking in Idaho waters and 10 salmon and steelhead hatcheries.
- Build and maintain more than 350 fishing and boating access sites.
- Manage habitat on 32 wildlife management areas and assist private landowners and public land managers on 83,600 square miles of habitat.
- Certify more than 11,000 new hunters and bowhunters annually.
- Provide educational programs for about 200,000 children and adults annually.

How You Help

The Idaho Fish and Game *receives no money from State taxes* to manage Idaho's wildlife. Funding relies on the sale of licenses and tags, federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, and federal and private grants and donations.

You provide our agency's funding every time you:

- Buy a hunting, fishing or trapping license.
- Buy wildlife license plates.
- Volunteer.
- Check off the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund donation box on the Idaho state income tax form.
- Donate to the Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation at www.ifwf.org/donate.



visit us at idfg.idaho.gov





DIRECTOR MOORE'S OPEN LETTER TO THE HUNTERS, ANGLERS AND TRAPPERS OF IDAHO

Idaho's 2016 hunting season was another banner year. Final numbers show the white-tailed deer harvest topped 27,900 deer for the third year in a row, mule deer harvest exceeded 39,000 deer for the first time in 25 years, and elk hunters harvested 22,500 elk for two-straight years, which is the best two-year period in 20 years.

In 2016, deer hunters had a 34 percent success rate in general season hunts and 55 percent success in controlled hunts.

Elk hunters had a 17 percent success rate in general season hunts and 39 percent success in controlled hunts.

As Idaho Fish and Game's director, I am happy for hunters and proud of our staff. We have worked hard to better balance predator and prey populations, and to improve habitat for wildlife and fisheries. These goals are outlined in the Idaho Fish and Game 2015 Strategic Plan, which was designed to focus on improving hunting, fishing and trapping.

While we enjoy the benefits of healthy wildlife populations, we also must be mindful that more animals on the landscape can cause problems for many farmers and ranchers whose crops and livelihoods are threatened by wildlife depredation.

The winter of 2016-17 presented challenges, the likes of which we have not seen in decades. The Fish and Game Commission recognized a responsibility to address impacts to privately owned farms and ranches caused by abundant game herds. In order to address those impacts effectively, Fish and Game needed additional resources.

The commission also recognized a need to bolster public access for hunting and fishing from private lands and willing landowners.

That is why the commission directed Fish and Game to create a Depredation Management/Access Fee and combine it with our "Price Lock" revenue increase proposal.

I am pleased to report the Idaho Legislature approved the combined proposal. It provides additional money to compensate landowners for depredation damages, prevent future big game crop damage and more money to pay for additional hunting and fishing access. The funds come via a license surcharge (\$5 resident adult or \$10 for nonresident adult) paid prior to purchasing your annual license, which takes effect May 1, 2017.

At the same time, our Price Lock allows hunters and anglers to exempt themselves from higher fees to their existing licenses and tags, which takes effect when 2018 licenses and tags go on sale.

All you have to do is buy your 2017 annual license, "lock-in" and keep buying each year for at least the next five years when lawmakers will conduct a review of Price Lock. By doing that, you are providing much-needed wildlife management resources, doing your part to improve wildlife conservation, and our hunting and fishing legacy in Idaho.

I invite you to learn more about the Wildlife Depredation/Access Fee and Price Lock by visiting the Idaho Fish and Game website at: idfg.idaho.gov

Thank you for supporting Idaho Fish and Game and wildlife conservation, and I wish you great hunting, fishing and trapping in 2017.

Virgil Moore, Director
Idaho Department of Fish and Game



Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Idaho Wildlife Policy

"All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping."

— Idaho Code Section 36-103

Idaho Fish and Game Commission

Brad Corkill, Panhandle
Daniel Blanco, Clearwater
Blake Fischer, Southwest
Greg Cameron, Magic Valley
Lane Clezie, Southeast
Derick Attebury, Upper Snake
Jerry Meyers, Salmon

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

600 S. Walnut St., P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

208-334-3700 • idfg.idaho.gov

Virgil Moore, Director
Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director
Ed Schriever, Deputy Director

Regional Offices

Panhandle Region..... 208-769-1414
2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene ID 83815

Clearwater Region 208-799-5010
3316 16th St., Lewiston ID 83501

Southwest Region 208-465-8465
3101 S. Powerline Rd., Nampa ID 83686

McCall Subregion..... 208-634-8137
555 Deinhard Lane, McCall ID 83638

Magic Valley Region 208-324-4359
324 S 417 E; Suite #1, Jerome ID 83338

Southeast Region 208-232-4703
1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello ID 83204

Upper Snake Region 208-525-7290
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID 83401

Salmon Region 208-756-2271
99 Highway 93 N., Salmon ID 83467

Idaho Fish and Game offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except state holidays. Offices in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions are in the Pacific Time Zone; all others are in the Mountain Time Zone.

To Buy a License, Tag or Permit:

- In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
- By credit card, within the United States call 1-800-554-8685. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail.
- From your computer or mobile device, go to **idfg.idaho.gov**. A service fee is added for online and telephone transactions.
- Commercial licenses and tags, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits may be purchased only at Fish and Game offices.

To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.

Emergency information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.



Other Information Numbers

Rules booklets, nonresident license applications: 208-334-3700

U. S. Forest Service:

Southern Idaho **www.fs.usda.gov/r4**

Northern Idaho..... **www.fs.usda.gov/r1**

Bureau of Land Management: **www.blm.gov/id**

Idaho Relay Service (TDD) 1-800-377-3529

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran's status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, Mailstop: MBSP-4020, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact IDFG for assistance.

Information in this brochure summarizes rules and is an official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of wildlife and/or fish. The official rules are available at **<https://idfg.idaho.gov/rules>** or from the Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries. Maps are for general reference only.

Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.
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GETTING STARTED

To use this brochure:

This brochure covers only rules for hunting deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion and gray wolf. Separate brochures contain information about hunting upland game, turkey, furbearer and falconry; waterfowl, crow, dove and sandhill crane; and moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat.

- Pick the species you want to hunt, then refer to the section on that animal.
- Refer to the map on pages 82 and 83 to find an area to hunt.
- Find the unit numbers on the map and look up the seasons and restrictions for those units.

Big game hunting in Idaho is regulated by numbered game management units. For a map of Fish and Game regions and game management units see pages 82 and 83.

General seasons for black bear, mountain lion, mule deer and white-tailed deer are arranged by units.

Some seasons labeled **regular deer** include mule deer and white-tailed deer, other seasons are labeled **white-tailed** deer only.

General seasons for elk are arranged by larger areas called elk management zones, which are made up of one or more game management units. For a map of elk zones see page 33.

General hunting and trapping seasons for gray wolf are located on pages 76 - 79.

Controlled hunts are listed by hunt numbers for controlled hunt areas, which consist of parts of one or more game management units.

Controlled hunt areas are different for each species. For example deer are not the same as controlled hunt areas for elk, pronghorn or black bear.

For an explanation of controlled hunts and how to apply, see pages 106 - 110. When picking a controlled hunt, make sure to use the hunt number from the current year's rule book.

Detailed big game hunting rules and restrictions begin on page 95. License requirements and fees begin on page 112.

Notes on licenses and tags:

A hunting license is required to hunt. A trapping license is required to trap gray wolf. In addition, a tag is required for all big game species.

Got questions?

We are here to help. Call your nearest Fish and Game Office or visit us online at: idfg.idaho.gov.

Hunter Responsibilities

Changes and updates made to Big Game seasons and rules, since this brochure was printed on 3/28/2017, can be found on the Fish and Game website at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/rules>.

WHAT'S NEW?

Sawtooth Elk Tags:

Due to high demand, Sawtooth Zone elk tags will be sold separately from other elk tags. Nonresident Sawtooth tags will go on sale May 10 at 10 a.m. Mountain Time across all sales venues. Resident Sawtooth Zone A and B tags will go on sale July 12 (two days after other resident tags), with half of the tags sold **ONLY** at license vendors starting at 10 a.m. Mountain Time. The remaining half of the resident tags will be sold **ONLY** online starting at 1 p.m. Mountain Time.

Price Lock & Depredation/Access Fee:

The Idaho Legislature passed a resident fee increase starting with the sale of 2018 licenses, and along with it, two new features for hunters and anglers.

First, the "Price Lock" lets resident hunters, anglers and trappers avoid the fee increase and "lock in" to current prices for at least five years for all licenses, tags and permits by purchasing an annual license every year starting in 2017.

Second, starting May 1, 2017 a new \$5 fee for resident adults and \$10 for nonresident adults will be required to purchase an annual hunting, fishing and trapping license. The fee only applies to your first annual license of the year. A \$2 fee is required for residents and \$4 for nonresidents to purchase all other annual licenses (Junior, Senior, Disabled American Veteran, and Military Furlough). Those who buy a three-year license pay double those fees. Money from the fees will pay for wildlife damage prevention and compensation on private lands and access programs for hunters and anglers.

Antlerless Mule Deer & Youth Hunting:

Due to extreme winter weather several antlerless mule deer controlled hunts, and several youth only general antlerless hunts, have been eliminated or restricted. Please check the seasons before you go.

Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Big Game 2017 & 2018 Season and Rules
July 2017 through June 2019



Key Dates

- **May 1 - June 5:** First controlled hunt application period. Successful applicants will be notified by July 10.
- **August 1:** Last day to purchase controlled hunt tags (excluding unlimited tags).
- **August 5 - 15:** Second controlled hunt application period: Successful applicants will be notified by August 25.
- **August 25, 2017 & August 27, 2018:** Leftover tags from second drawing go on sale at 10 a.m. Mountain Time.
- **June 30:** Deadline for depredation hunt application. See page 110.
- For other important dates, see page 106.



Hunter Responsibilities

Changes and updates made to Big Game seasons and rules, since this brochure was printed on 3/28/17, can be found on the Fish and Game website at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/rules>.



Price Lock

Starting in 2018, the price of most resident licenses, tags and permits will increase. However, hunters, anglers and trappers can avoid the increase and “lock in” at the current price by purchasing an annual license each year for at least the next five years beginning in 2017. For more information, visit <https://idfg.idaho.gov/pricelock>.



Hunter Report

If you purchase a deer, elk, or pronghorn tag, you are required to file a Hunter Report for each tag you purchase - even if you did not hunt or did not harvest an animal. Reports must be filed within 10 days of harvest, or 10 days after the season. Report online at idfg.idaho.gov or call toll free 24 hours a day/7 days a week **1-877-268-9365** to speak to a live operator.



Citizens Against Poaching (CAP)

Call **1-800-632-5999** to report wildlife violators. Callers may remain anonymous and rewards are available.



Got Ear Tag?

If you harvest an animal with an ear tag, please contact the Fish and Game Wildlife Health Lab at **208-939-9171** or your local regional office. See page 30.



Helicopter Surveys and Big Game Capture Operations

Hunters may encounter biologists conducting helicopter surveys and capture operations during late season hunts **December through March**. They will try to avoid flying where hunters are observed.



Mule Deer Initiative

Getting things done for mule deer takes partnerships. See page 14 for work being done and those involved.



Black Bear or Grizzly?

Avoid mistaken identity. Watch videos that show you how to tell the difference, then take the bear identification quiz. See page 72.



Motorized Hunt Rule

Know before you go. Avoid conflicts by following all travel management restrictions on lands where you hunt. See pages 101-103.



Super Hunt

Buy a chance at a Super Hunt Tag, and help pay for more access to hunting and fishing. See page 66.



Hunt Planner

Pick a species, date and hunt unit to see all that you can hunt. Links to maps, apps and more. See page 99.